

[3 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

New Commission for agricultural research

1369. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a new proposal to appoint one more Commission for effective agricultural research in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objectives to be achieved thereby;

(c) whether the proposed Commission would, *inter-alia* co-ordinate with the researches already going on in the agricultural field in various States and agriculture universities in the country, to avoid duplication; and

(d) the terms of reference and composition of the proposed Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

Butchering of cows in Mathura and Gurgaon

1370. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cows were butchered in Mathura and Nanhere village of Gurgaon district of Haryana recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have initiated any probe to find out the circumstances under which such acts of cruelty were committed and who were responsible for the gruesome crime; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) As per provisions of the Constitution, animal preservation is a subject within the purview of the respective State Governments/Union

Territories who have framed their own Animal Preservation Acts. In the specific incident mentioned in the question, the police authorities of Mathura District, have informed that some cows and calves were brought into Gurgaon District of Haryana from Rajasthan and illegally slaughtered. The remains of slaughtered animals were dumped in village Barwari Garhi, P.S. Kosi in forests of Mathura District of Uttar Pradesh. The incident was brought to the notice of the police authorities by the village Chief and a case was registered. The police authorities of Gurgaon District have also registered a case and action has been initiated against the culprits under the relevant law.

Introduction of genetically modified seeds

1371. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are protesting against unfair trade system that has been forced on them by WTO;

(b) whether it is a fact that the farmers want to ban introduction of genetically modified seeds in the country by multinational companies; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by the Central Government to safeguard the farmers' interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) There have been representations from a few organizations from different parts of the country alleging that unfair trade system has been forced by WTO.

(b) and (c) The subject of genetically modified seeds is under active debate worldwide. This technology has both pros and cons and its impacts are being evaluated by various agencies. In certain cases, genetically modified seeds are considered to be good for insect-pest resistance, improvement in nutritional quality traits, tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses, etc. However, at the same time, these seeds are required to be tested carefully before commercial exploitation, for Environment and bio-safety clearance under well